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LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As you know, we have for some time been providing support to the Arusha peace talks which are intended to help bring about a peaceful settlement in Burundi. In this context, I have the honour to inform you of my decision to appoint Ambassador Ayité Jean-Claude Kpakpo (Benin) as Senior United Nations Adviser to the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process, His Excellency Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. Ambassador Kpakpo was deployed to the United Republic of Tanzania in July 1998, in succession to Felix Mosha (United Republic of Tanzania), in time to participate in the second round of the Arusha peace talks.

In writing to you, I wish to draw the attention of the international community to the renewed importance of the Burundi peace process at this time of crisis in the Great Lakes region of Africa, and to reiterate United Nations long-standing support of the Facilitator's efforts. A positive momentum was created in the Burundi peace process during two rounds of inclusive talks held at Arusha in June and July 1998, under the Facilitator's able guidance. That momentum has been reinforced by successful efforts, within Burundi, to build a partnership between the Government and the democratic opposition. A great deal of hope has been placed in the third round of talks, which started on 13 October 1998 in Arusha, and for which the United Nations is providing secretariat and conferencing services.

I should be grateful, Mr. President, if you would bring Ambassador Kpakpo's appointment to the attention of the members of the Security Council, and alert them to the importance of contributing in every possible way to the Facilitator's efforts towards Burundi.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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